

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of splicing weatherstripping including a sealing element and a backing element, the method comprising:
 - cutting a portion of the sealing element from a first piece of weatherstripping, leaving an exposed portion of the backing element;
 - overlapping the exposed portion of the backing element with a backing element of a second piece of weatherstripping; and
 - ultrasonically joining the exposed portion of the backing element of the first piece of weatherstripping to the backing element of the second piece of weatherstripping.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the exposed portion of the backing element of the first piece of weatherstripping is pressed against the backing element of the second piece of weatherstripping while ultrasonically joining the two pieces of weatherstripping.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step further comprises cutting the exposed portion of the backing element at an angle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step further comprises cutting the exposed portion of the backing element in a V-shape.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step comprises:
 - inserting the first piece of weatherstripping into an apparatus; and
 - actuating a blade to cut a portion of the sealing element.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step is carried out with an apparatus for cutting weatherstripping comprising a sealing element and a backing element, the apparatus comprising:
 - a base for receiving one end of the weatherstripping, and
 - a blade moveably coupled to the base for longitudinally shaving ~~the~~ the portion of the sealing element from the weatherstripping.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the blade is coupled to a handle rotatably mounted to the base.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the apparatus further comprises a track disposed on the base for receiving weatherstripping.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the apparatus further comprises a stop disposed on the base for limiting a length of weatherstripping received by the base.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the joining step is carried out with an ~~An apparatus for joining pieces of weatherstripping, the apparatus comprising:~~

a base including a channel for receiving ~~[[a]]~~ the first piece of weatherstripping at one end and ~~[[a]]~~ the second piece of weatherstripping at an opposite end, wherein the first and second pieces of weatherstripping slide relative to each other along the channel into linearly partially overlapping contact at at least one point, wherein the base is adapted to cooperate with an ultrasonic welder for joining the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping at the point of overlapping contact.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 10, wherein the apparatus further comprises clamps attached to the base for holding the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping in place.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 10, wherein the base comprises two pieces with one piece slideably disposed relative to the other piece.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 10, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for pressing the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping together at the point of the overlapping contact.

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the blade is adapted to shave a variable predetermined thickness of the sealing element from the weatherstripping.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the blade removes substantially an entire thickness of the sealing element at one end of the weatherstripping, leaving ~~[[an]]~~ the exposed portion of the backing element.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 6, wherein the blade is adapted to shave both an entire thickness of the sealing element and a variable predetermined thickness of the backing element from the weatherstripping.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 7, wherein the blade travels substantially parallel to a longitudinal extent of the weatherstripping.